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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,410	08/15/2003	Raymond M. Ruthenberg	D/A3200	1479

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EXAMINER

KIM, EUGENE LEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3721	

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/642,410

Applicant(s)

RUTHENBERG ET AL.

Examiner

Eugene L Kim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamilton (#5,766,122) in view of Touchette (#4,023,789).

Hamilton show two roller means disposed on first and second axles as shown in figure 2. Hamilton shows the rollers being driven by first and second gear members 76, 78. Hamilton does not show a slip element as claimed. However, Touchette teaches the concept of using a slip element clutch 324 that cooperates with gear 322. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Hamilton with a slip clutch as taught by Touchette to better control the driving means. Regarding claim 5, the examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the art to use washer means as claimed.

3. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamilton in view of Touchette as applied to claims above, and further in view of Wakabayashi et al (#6,568,668). Hamilton in view of Touchette do not show a movable blade to push a sheet through a nip as claimed. However, Wakabayashi et al show a blade 661 that pushes sheet means through a nip to form a fold. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

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time of the invention to provide Hamilton in view of Touchette with pushing blade means as taught by Wakabayshi et al to accurately form a fold.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 6-8, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hamilton. Hamilton shows first and second roll means wherein gear means 76, 78 transmit torque from the first to second roller. Regarding claim 11, the examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the art to fold a plurality of sheets simultaneously as claimed.

6. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamilton in view of Touchette.

Hamilton does not show a slip element as claimed. However, Touchette teaches the concept of using a slip element clutch 324 that cooperates with gear 322. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Hamilton with a slip clutch as taught by Touchette to better control the driving means.

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7. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamilton in view of Wakabayshi et al. Hamilton does not show a movable blade to push a sheet through a nip as claimed. However, Wakabayashi et al show a blade 661 that pushes sheet means through a nip to form a fold. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Hamilton with pushing blade means as taught by Wakabayshi et al to accurately form a fold.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eugene L Kim whose telephone number is 703 308-1886. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on 703 308-2187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Eugene L Kim
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3721